<u>REMARKS</u>

Claims 1, 4, 5, and 7-15 are presented for examination in this application, of which Claims 1, 7, 9, 10 and 11 are in independent form. Claims 2, 3, and 6 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1, 7, 9, 10, and 11 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention, and Claims 4, 5, and 8 have been amended as to matters of form. Favorable reconsideration is requested. The canceled claims will not be further addressed herein.

Claims 1, 4 and 7-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,473,197 (*Shimazaki*), and Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Shimazaki* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,950,036 (*Konishi*).

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is an image processing method for controlling an image processing apparatus which can communicate to a plurality of output apparatuses that output an image, including a reference output apparatus. The method includes inputting latest output characteristics data for calibration corresponding to each output apparatus of the plurality of output apparatuses that output an image (step S9 in Figure 5).[1] Calculating density correction data corresponding to another output apparatus on the basis of the latest output characteristics data inputted for calibration of the another output apparatus (step S10 in Figure 5). The method also includes managing the density correction data corresponding to each of the output apparatuses calculated in the calculating step, and updating the density correction data corresponding to the output characteristics of the another output apparatus according to both the density correction data of the another output apparatus calculated in the calculating step and updated output characteristics data of the reference output apparatus (step S11 in Figure 5).

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[1] It is to be understood, of course, that the claim scope is not limited by the details of the described embodiments, which are referred to only to facilitate explanation.

Among other important features of Claim 1 is inputting latest output characteristics data for calibration corresponding to each output apparatus of the plurality of output apparatuses that output an image.

Shimazaki relates to a color correction apparatus for effecting the color correction of an input/output apparatus connected to a system for inputting and outputting a color image. *Shimazaki* discusses that synthesized LUT 60 (the look up table on which the print condition correction data, the standard color transformation data and the printer condition correction data are synthesized) formed by the color printer 12 is transmitted to the color printing machine 20. The synthesized LUT 60 contains the calibrated (updated) data (printer condition correction data) of the color printer 12 and the calibrated (updated) data (printer condition correction data) of the color printing machine 20. However, the print condition correction data of the *Shimazaki* apparatus was previously determined and does not reflect the latest status of the color printing machine 20. Nothing has been found in *Shimazaki* that would teach or suggest inputting the latest output characteristics data for calibration corresponding to each of the pluralilty of output apparatuses that output an image, as recited in Claim 1. Neither would anything in *Shimazaki* teach or suggest calculating density correction data corresponding to another output apparatus on the basis of the latest output characteristics data inputted for calibration of the another output apparatus, and updating the density correction data corresponding to the output characteristics of the another output apparatus according to both the density correction data of the another output apparatus calculated in the calculating step and updated output characteristics data of the reference output apparatus, as further recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Claim 1 is believed to be clearly allowable over *Shimazaki*.

Independent Claims 7, 9 and 10 are apparatus, memory medium and program claims, respectively, corresponding to method Claim 1, and are believed allowable for substantially the same reasons as is Claim 1.

Independent Claim 11 is directed to a processing method for use in a print server, comprising administrating density correction tables of a reference printer and at least a second printer, and updating the density correction table of the second printer in accordance with a change of color reproducibility of the reference printer and the density correction table based on latest density characteristics of the second printer included in the plural printers.

For reasons substantially similar to those discussed above in connection with Claim 1, Applicant submits that nothing has found *Shimazaki* that would teach or suggest updating the density correction table of the second printer in accordance with a change of color reproducibility of the reference printer and the density correction table based on latest density characteristics of the second printer included in the plural printers, as recited in Claim 11.

Accordingly, Claim 11 is believed to be clearly allowable over *Shimazaki*.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

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